

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head comprising a slider and an electromagnetic conversion element,

    said slider including a base, a protective film and a medium opposing surface along a long direction of said magnetic head, said protective film being provided on a side surface of said base so as to be integrated with said base,

    said electromagnetic conversion element being provided on said side surface of said base, and covered with said protective film,

    wherein a distance  $\alpha 1$  between said electromagnetic conversion element and a medium contacting edge of said protective film is set ~~within 50-200 greater than 50 $\mu m$  and less than or equal to 200~~  $\mu m$ .

2. (Original) The magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said distance  $\alpha 1$  is set to 100  $\mu m$  or over.

3. (Original) The magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said electromagnetic conversion element includes a reproducing element made of a magnetoresistive effective element, and said distance  $\alpha 1$  is defined on said reproducing element.

4. (Original) The magnetic head as defined in claim 1, wherein said electromagnetic conversion element includes a recording element made of an inductive type magnetic conversion element.

5. (Original) A magnetic head device comprising a magnetic head as defined in claim 1 and a head supporting device to support said magnetic head.

6. (Original) A magnetic recording/reproducing device comprising a magnetic head device as defined in claim 5 and a flexible magnetic recording medium which perform magnetic recording and reproducing cooperated with said magnetic head device.

7. (New) A magnetic head comprising a slider and an electromagnetic conversion element,

    said slider including a base, a protective film and a medium opposing surface along a long direction of said magnetic head, said protective film being provided on a side surface of said base so as to be integrated with said base,

    said electromagnetic conversion element being provided on said side surface of said base, and covered with said protective film,

    wherein a distance  $\alpha 1$  between said electromagnetic conversion element and a medium contacting edge of said protective film is greater or equal to  $100\mu\text{m}$  and less than or equal to  $200\mu\text{m}$ .